A stylized illustration of a kitchen. In the foreground, a wooden dining table and four chairs are visible. In the background, a wooden kitchen counter holds a brown pot on a stove. A window with light-colored curtains is behind the counter, and a dark range hood is mounted above it.

生日那天的早上，外婆给小米煮了红鸡蛋和长寿面。这碗长寿面里的面条是完整的一根，没有切断的。小米用筷子夹了夹，不知道怎么吃好。

外公外婆笑着说：“祝小米长命百岁，健康快乐！”

小米觉得很奇怪，问外公外婆：“我今年十五岁，离一百岁还远着呢，为什么就祝我长命百岁呀？”

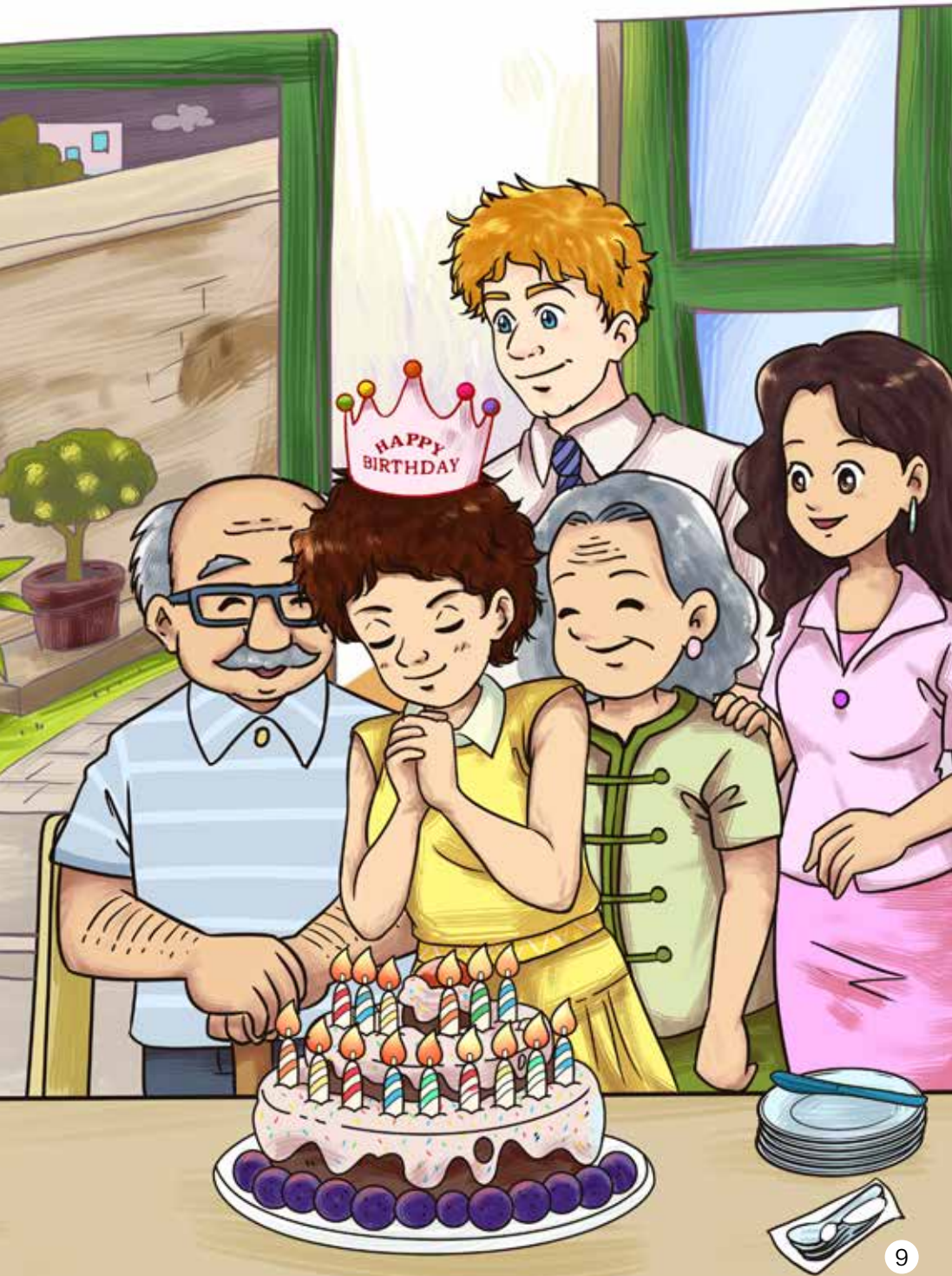


爸爸专门从英国伦敦飞过来给小米过生日，他事先嘱咐小米的妈妈订了一个超大的蛋糕。

晚上，爸爸把大蛋糕端上餐桌，帮小米把十五根蜡烛插在蛋糕上，并点燃了蜡烛。大家开始给小米唱生日快乐歌。小米先低着头握住双手，许了一个心愿，然后一口气把所有蜡烛都吹灭，之后小米把蜡烛一根根都拔出来。

爸爸递给小米一把蛋糕刀，小米开始切蛋糕。蛋糕被切成一小块一小块的，分别用盘子装好，小米把一盘盘蛋糕端给大家吃。





## 用中文读一读 Chinese Version

这个暑期，小米和妈妈一起去了中国的西安，那段日子，她们就住在她外公外婆家里。刚好赶上7月23日是小米的生日，这是小米第一次在外公外婆家过自己的生日。

生日那天的早上，外婆给小米煮了红鸡蛋和长寿面。这碗长寿面里的面条是完整的一根，没有切断的。小米用筷子夹了夹，不知道怎么吃好。

外公外婆笑着说：“祝小米长命百岁，健康快乐！”

小米觉得很奇怪，问外公外婆：“我今年十五岁，离一百岁还远着呢，为什么就祝我长命百岁呀？”

外婆向她解释说：“这是中国的传统。很久以前，人们的寿命短，而人们都希望活得长久，所以祝长命百岁是美好的愿望。现在人们的寿命已经增长了很多，可是这个传统却一直流传下来了。我们是希望你天天开开心心，年年健健康康！”

小米听了，高高兴兴的把长寿面和红鸡蛋吃了。

爸爸专门从英国伦敦飞过来给小米过生日，他事先嘱咐小米的妈妈订了一个超大的蛋糕。

晚上，爸爸把大蛋糕端上餐桌，帮小米把十五根蜡烛插在蛋糕上，并点燃了蜡烛。大家开始给小米唱生日快乐歌。小米先低着头握住双手，许了一个心愿，然后一口气把所有蜡烛都吹灭，之后小米把蜡烛一根根都拔出来。

爸爸递给小米一把蛋糕刀，小米开始切蛋糕。蛋糕被切成一小块一小块的，分别用盘子装好，小米把一盘盘蛋糕端给大家吃。

外婆说：“我知道外国人过生日时要吹蜡烛，可是我不明白为什么要把蜡烛插在蛋糕上，点燃再吹灭，然后又拔掉，这不是咱中国的吹灯拔蜡吗？是让咱们家散伙的意思，多不好呀！而且你看，使劲吹这些蜡烛不是把唾沫

## 用英文读一读

### English Version

This summer, Xiaomi and her mother went to Xi'an, China. During that period, they lived in her grandparents' home. July 23 was Xiaomi's birthday. It was the first time that Xiaomi had celebrated her birthday in her grandparents' home.

On the morning of her birthday, her grandma cooked red eggs and a longevity noodle for her, which was one long uncut noodle in a bowl. Xiaomi grabbed it with her chopsticks, but she didn't know how to eat it.

Her grandpa and grandma smiled and said, "We wish you one hundred years of health and happiness!"

Xiaomi felt very strange and asked them, "I am fifteen years old, and still far away from one hundred. Why do you make such a wish?"

Her grandma explained to her, "This is a Chinese tradition. Long ago, people lived short lives, and they all wanted to live longer, so it was a good wish to live for one hundred years. Now people live much longer, but this tradition has been passed down. We hope that you will be happy every day and healthy every year."

Xiaomi listened and happily ate the longevity noodle and red eggs.

Her dad flew over from London, England to celebrate Xiaomi's birthday. He told her mother to order a big cake in advance.

In the evening, he put the big cake on the table, helped Xiaomi put fifteen candles on the cake, and lit them. Everyone started singing the birthday song to her. Xiaomi held her hands with her head down, made a wish, blew out all the candles in one breath, and then pulled out the candles one by one.

Her dad handed her a cake cutter, and she started to cut the cake. The cake was cut into small pieces, which were placed on different plates. She served a plate of cake to everyone.

Her grandma said, "I know that foreigners blow out candles on their birthdays, but I don't understand why they insert the candles in the cakes, light them, blow them out, and then pull them out. Isn't this just like the Chinese idiom of 'blowing out a lamp and pulling out the candle?' This means the breakup of our family.